

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03167 191803Z

64

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6974

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT BAGHDAD

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

EO 11652: NA DECON 3/19/75

TAGS: PFOR US UR XF

SUBJ: LEFTIST ATTITUDE RE CURRENT ME DEVELOPMENTS

REF: BEIRUT 3003

SUMMARY; LEFTIST PROPAGANDA AND POLITICAL ACTION OPPOSED
TO CURRENT TRENDS IN EGYPTIAN POLICY, ENDING OF OIL EMBARGO
AND FEDAYEEN PARTICIPATION
IN GENEVA CONFERENCE

HAVE BEEN INCREASING OVER PAST FEW DAYS. LEBANESE
COMMUNIST PARTY, INTER ALIA, CONTINUES BE STRONGLY
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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 03167 191803Z

CRITICAL OF EGYPTIAN-SAUDI CAMPAIGN TO LIFT OIL EMBARGO

AS UNDERCUTTING USSR POLICIES IN MIDDLE EAST AND HURTING
PALESTINIAN AND SYRIAN CAUSES. END SUMMARY.

1. LEBANESE LEFTIST PRESS HAS CONTINUED SHARP CRITICISM
OF USG ME POLICY, OF EFFORTS BY ARAB GOVTS TO LIFT OIL
EMBARGO, AND OF EGYPTIAN TREND AWAY FROM NASSER. MOST
INTERESTING WAS LEAD ARTICLE ENTITLED "SERIES OF ARAB
RETREATS" APPEARING IN MARCH 16 ISSUE OF LEBANESE
COMMUNIST PARTY WEEKLY AL-AKHBAR. ARTICLE ASKS WHY
EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA ARE CALLING FOR LIFTING OF OIL
EMBARGO, THEREBY PLACING RELATIONS WITH UNITED STATES
ABOVE ARAB GOALS OF COMPLETE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND
RESTITUTION OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS." IS IT IN REPLY TO
GROVSKO'S VISITS TO SOFIA AND EGYPT AND HIS MEETINGS
WITH SYRIAN, EGYPTIAN AND PALESTINIAN OFFICIALS, IN
WHICH HE CONFIRMED IMPORTANCE USSR ATTACHES TO FIRM
SUPPORT FOR ARAB PEOPLES, COMPLETE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL,
AND RESTITUTION OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS...? OR IS
IT THAT EGYPTIAN-SAUDI CAMPAIGN AIMS AT PREVENTING POSITIVE
RESULTS OF SOVIET SUPPORT FOR SYRIA'S DEMANDS THAT
DISENGAGEMENT BE LINKED TO SPECIFIC TIMETABLE FOR WITHDRAWAL
FROM ALL OCCUPIED TERRITORIES...? OR IS IT
AIMED AT UNDERMINING SOVIET SUPPORT FOR PLO AS SOLE

REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINE PEOPLE?" ARTICLE
PROCEEDS TO CATALOGUE NEGATIVE RESULTS OF EGYPTIAN-
SAUDI-UNITED STATES CAMPAIGN, AND CALLS UPON "NATIONALISTS
AND PROGRESSIVE ARAB FORCES" TO MOUNT CAMPAIGN TO SHOW
SADAT EXTENT OF HIS ISOLATION AND DANGER OF "GRAVE
DEVIATIONS," SUCH AS REMOVING NASSER'S PORTRAITS AND
REHABILITATING "PERSONS SENTENCED FOR TREASON" (I.E.,
AMIN BROTHERS). SIMILAR THEMES ECHOED BY LOCAL PAPERS
KNOWN TO HAVE IRAQI, LIBYAN, AND ALGERIAN SUPPORT, AS
WELL AS BY PRO-FEDAYEEN PAPERS.

2. FEDAYEEN ORGANS ALSO TAKING STRONG LINE AGAINST PLO
ATTENDANCE AT MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE, AS REPORTED
IN FBIS M161639 (DAMASCUS MENA) AND FBIS M171131
(BAGHDAD INA). ARTICLE QUOTED BY RADIO BAGHDAD
APPEARED IN PRO-FEDAYEEN PAPER AL-MUHARRIR MARCH 17 AS
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DIRECT REPLY TO ARTICLE BY ALI AMIN IN CAIRO'S AL-AZHAR
CLAIMING THAT "AGREEMENT IS TOTAL BETWEEN SADAT AND YASSIR
'ARAFAT" AND THAT "THOSE WHO KNOW EXPECT ABOUT AMMAR TO
TAKE PART IN THIRD GENEVA CONFERENCE." FIVE OF NINE
MEMBERS PLO EXCOMM MET AT "SOCIAL EVENT" (BELIEVED TO
BE WIFE OF FATHER OF EXCOMM MEMBER YUSUF SAYEGH),
REPUDIATED FOR PUBLIC RECORD CLAIM OF PLO/EGYPTIAN COORDINATION,
AND REJECTED PARTICIPATION "IN ANY CONFERENCE

BASED ON SC RES 242, REGARDLESS OF WHO ORGANIZES OR PARTICIPATES IN CONFERENCE." IT APPEARS THAT SA'IQA LEADER ZOHAIH MOHSEN INITIATED THIS DENIAL, JUST AS HE DID SIMILAR PUBLIC DISPUTE WITH 'ARAFAT OVER EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT (BEIRUT 866).

3. ON OTHER HAND, PLO EXCOMM MEMBER YASSIR ABED RABBOUH (PDFLP), WHO DID NOT SIGN NEGATIVE STATEMENT NOTED ABOVE, ANNOUNCED IN LOCAL PRESS MAR 19 THAT PLO CENTRAL COUNCIL WILL SOON MEET IN DAMASCUS TO "CONTINUE DISCUSSION OF JOINT FEDAYEEN POLICY" AND THAT 'ARAFAT WILL SOON VISIT MOSCOW AS OFFICIAL GUEST OF USSR. LOCAL PRESS ALSO ANNOUNCES IMMINENT VISIT TO MOSCOW BY SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASSAD.

4. ANOTHER THEME BEING PUSHED BY VARIOUS PAPERS HERE, AS WELL AS LEFTIST POLITICAL GROUPS, IS NECESSITY REORGANIZE NASSERIST POLITICAL GROUPS IN ORDER CONFRONT EFFORTS BY SADAT AND OTHERS TO DEFAME LATE EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT. IT APPEARS THAT EFFORT UNDERWAY FORM SOME SORT OF LOOSE COILITION OF SEVERAL DIFFERENT HARD-LINE GROUPS, INCLUDING PROBABLY THE SO-CALLED "REFUSAL FRONT" (IRAQ, LIBYA, PFLP, PPS, ETC.) BENEATH BANNER OF NASSER RATHER THAN LESS POPULAR AUSPICES. OBJECTIVE APPEARS SAME AS THAT OF "REFUSAL FRONT." FOR PRESENT SYRIA APPEARS BE SUPPORTING NEGATIVE LINE ON LOCAL SCENE, AS WELL AS OPPOSING LIFTING OF EMBARGO IN VIENNA. THIS POSITION APPEARS CONSISTENT WITH ARTILLERY BARRAGES ON GOLAN AND OTHER MOVES APPLY MAXIMUM PRESSURE AS TALKS ON DISENGAGEMENT DRAW NEARER.
GODLEY

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